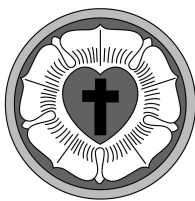


# Our Saviour Lutheran Church



Last Sunday of the Church Year  
24 November 2013



James Tissot (1836–1902), *Les vierges sages*

**‘Here is the bridegroom!  
Come out to meet him.’**

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The Parsonage, 65 Furzehall Avenue, Fareham, PO16 8UD  
[www.oslc.org.uk](http://www.oslc.org.uk)

Pastor Tapani Simojoki  
Tel: 01329 822832  
Mobile: 07825 447475  
E-mail: [pastor@oslc.org.uk](mailto:pastor@oslc.org.uk)

### **A note to visitors**

We are delighted to have you with us this morning to receive the Lord’s gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

Please also record your visit in the visitors’ book at the back. If you would like a phone call or a pastoral visit, speak to the pastor or leave a note in the visitors’ book.

### **The Offering**

At this time, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

### **Children in the Service**

It is a delight and a privilege to have children in the service. Children as much as adults are members of

God's family and Jesus welcomes little children to Him.

There is a Sunday School for children during the sermon. The children leave at the beginning of the sermon and return to church after the prayers

Please do not worry if your child will not sit still or quietly throughout the service. Most young children won't manage that! There is plenty of space at the back of the room. If you do need to take a child outside, the smaller room is available for that purpose.

### **Holy Communion**

We believe that in the Lord's Supper, we eat and drink the true body and blood of Jesus in and with the bread and the wine, according to Jesus' own words. We also believe that those who participate in Holy Communion in a particular congregation should be in agreement in the confession of the faith.

Therefore, we ask that only those who are instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's spiritual care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

If you are visiting us and wish to receive the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor *before the service*. Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Our teaching on this matter is explained in more detail in the little leaflet, 'Why Closed Communion?', which is available at the back of the church.

**Thank you for honouring our beliefs.**

### ***A note on the service:***

*Both the hymns and the order of service are found in the Lutheran Service Book. The outline of the service is given in this bulletin. The congregation stands for the parts of the service printed in italics and sits for the rest.*

*The numbers in the bulletin refer to page numbers in the hymnal, where Psalm 1 is also page one, and the first hymn is 331, following page 330.*

*It helps to follow the service if you mark your place in the liturgy with this bulletin.*

### ***Explanation of Symbols:***

- C** Congregation
- P** Pastor (ordained)
- A** Assistant minister (ordained or lay)
- L** Liturgist (ordained or lay)
- ✠ You may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.
- ❖ You may bow at this point as a sign of reverence.

915 *Hymn: Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

184 *Confession and Absolution*

### *Catechism*

**P** The Tenth Commandment

**C** You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's.

**P** What does this mean?

**C** We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbour's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

*Introit* (Ps. 39:4-5, 7-8; antiphon: Isaiah 35:10)



**A** The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with | singing;\*  
everlasting joy shall be | upon their heads;  
they shall obtain glad- | ness and joy,\*  
and sorrow and sighing shall | flee away.

**C** O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure | of my days;\*  
let me know how fleeting | I am!

**A** Behold, you have made my days a few hand- breadths, and my lifetime is as nothing be- | fore you.  
Surely all mankind stands as a | mere breath!\*

**C** And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait? \*  
My hope | is in you.

**A** Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.\*  
Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!

**C** ❖ *Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* \*  
*and to the Holy | Spirit,*  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

**A** The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with | singing;\*  
everlasting joy shall be | upon their heads;

**C** they shall obtain glad- | ness and joy,\*  
and sorrow and sighing shall | flee away.

186 *Kyrie & Gloria in excelsis*

189 *Salutation and Collect of the Day*

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## The Readings

### ***By Faith We Are Prepared for Christ's Return***

*"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night"* (1 Thess. 5:1–11). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. *"For you know neither the day nor the hour"* when the Son of Man is to return. (Matt. 25:1–13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Is. 65:17–25).

### **Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 65:17–25**

- <sup>17</sup> "For behold, I create new heavens  
and a new earth,  
and the former things shall not be re-  
membered  
or come into mind.
- <sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever  
in that which I create;  
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,  
and her people to be a gladness.
- <sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem  
and be glad in my people;  
no more shall be heard in it the sound of  
weeping  
and the cry of distress.
- <sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it  
an infant who lives but a few days,  
or an old man who does not fill out his  
days,  
for the young man shall die a hundred years  
old,  
and the sinner a hundred years old shall  
be accursed.
- <sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their  
fruit.
- <sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of  
my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work  
of their hands.
- <sup>23</sup> They shall not labour in vain  
or bear children for calamity,  
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed  
of the LORD,  
and their descendants with them.

- <sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer;  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
- <sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,  
and dust shall be the serpent's food.
- They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain,"  
says the LORD.

**Gradual** (*Ps. 45:14-15*)

**G** In many-coloured robes the king's  
daughter is led | to the king,\*  
with her virgin companions following  
be- | hind her.  
With joy and gladness they are | led  
along\*  
as they enter the palace | of the king.

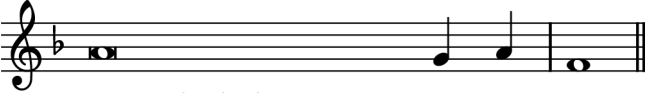
**Epistle Reading—1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "There is peace and security", then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

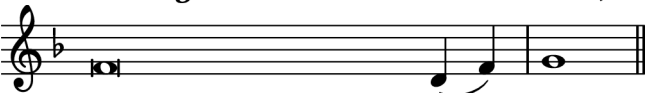
**Alleluia Verse** (*Rev. 21:2*)



**G** Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia.



I saw the holy city,  
new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,\*



prepared as  
a bride adorned for her hus - band.

*The Alleluia is repeated.*

## ***Gospel Reading—Matthew 25:1–13***

**L** The ✠ holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



**C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!**

[Jesus said,] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ!**

**191** ***The Nicene Creed***

**516** **Hymn: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying**  
**Sermon**

**192** ***The Offertory***

**Offering**

**193** ***Prayer of the Church***

**194** ***The Service of the Sacrament***

**514** ***Hymn: The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us***

**Sunday School Presentation**

## IN OUR PRAYERS

### Members

Ron; Frank; Karina

### Family of members

Diana (old age); Alex, Sarah & family; Jean (broken hip)

### Friends of members

Ilse Kelly (old age); Mike (unemployed); Trevor (unemployed); Claire and Phil (health); Helen Kriewaldt (stroke, breast cancer); Margaret Tustin (Alzheimer's); Rob (depression); Debra (depression); Brian (depression); Dave (mental illness); Lisa & family (cancer); Ray, Doreen & family (cancer); David Webb (cancer); Bob Waters (cancer); Ruth Simpson (cancer); Sally (health); Leanne (health); Beth (health); Julia (distress); Phil & Karen (distress); Gina & family; Bim (broken hip)

### ELCE

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Pr. Van Fossan; Board for Overseas Missions; Pr. McNally (cancer); Pr. Fry (health); Quirk family

### The Church of God

Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Fareham Baptist New Life Church

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD

### APOLOGY OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION

#### ARTICLE XXI: THE INVOCATION OF SAINTS

Hilary [of Poitiers] says of the foolish virgins:

As the foolish virgins could not go forth with their lamps extinguished, they sought those who were prudent to lend them oil; to whom they replied that they could not give the oil because there might not be enough for all. In other words, no one can be aided by the works and merits of another, because it is necessary for everyone to buy oil for his own lamp. Para. 30

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## Christmas Day Lunch

Date: 25th December

Venue: St. John's Church Hall, St. Michael's Grove

Time: Anytime between 11.30 and 1600

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Can you help us?

Do you have a few spare hours on Christmas Day? Would you be available to help look after and entertain our guests or perhaps come later and help with the clearing up at the end of the lunch? Please consider whether you might be able to help and give your name and contact details to Jennie Romecheva at Community Action Fareham 01 329 223 140 or email [jromicheva@farehamaction.org.uk](mailto:jromicheva@farehamaction.org.uk)

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

**Daily Services at St. Francis, Funtley**

Tue	8.45 am	Matins
Wed	7 pm	Advent Vespers
Thu	8.45am	Matins
Fri	8.45am	Matins

**The Week Ahead**

Tue	3.15pm	Drama Club
Wed	10.30am	Bible Study (Parsonage).
	12.45pm	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	2pm	Devotion at Willow Tree Lodge & Merry Hall
Sun	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	3pm	Finnish Carol Service (SS. Peter & Paul)
	6pm	Youth Club

**Further ahead**

3 Dec	3.15pm	Drama Club
4 Dec	10.30am	Bible Study (Parsonage).
	12.45pm	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	7pm	Advent Vespers (St. Francis)
8 Dec	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
15 Dec	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	12.30pm	Advent Drinks (Parsonage)

**Next Sunday's Readings:**

***Jeremiah 23:5-8; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 21:1-9***

**Daily Readings:**

Sun: Daniel 4:1-37 Revelation 21:1-8 *Apology of the Augsburg Confession XXVIII (XIV): 11-14*

Mon: Dan 5:1-30 Rev 21:9-27 *Ap XXVIII (XIV): 15-19*

Tue: Dan 6:1-28 Rev 22:1-21 *Ap XXVIII (XIV): 20-27*

Wed: Isaiah 1:1-28 1 Peteter 1:1-12 *Large Catechism Longer Preface: 1-6*

Thu: Is 2:1-22 1 Pet 1:13-25 *LC Longer Preface: 7-13*

Fri: Is 5:1-25 1 Pet 2:1-12 *LC Longer Preface: 14-20*

Sat: Is 6:1-7:9 1 Pet 2:13-25 *LC Short Preface: 1-13*

Sun: Is 7:10-8:8 1 Pet 3:1-22 *LC Short Preface: 14-28*

**Christmas Services**

Date	Time	Service
1 Dec	10:30 am	Divine Service— <i>Advent 1</i>
	3 pm	Finnish Carols (SS Peter & Paul)
4 Dec	7 pm	Advent Vespers (St. Francis)
8 Dec	10:30 am	Divine Service— <i>Advent 2</i>
11 Dec	7 pm	Advent Vespers (St. Francis)
15 Dec	10:30 am	Divine Service— <i>Advent 3</i>
18 Dec	2 pm	Christmas Carols at Willow Tree Lodge & Merry Hall
	7 pm	Advent Vespers (St. Francis)
22 Dec	10 am	Divine Service— <i>Advent 4</i>
	11:15 am	Children's Carol Service
23 Dec	2 pm	Christmas Carols at Kiln Lodge & Hunters Lodge
24 Dec	11 pm	Midnight Mass
25 Dec	10 am	Divine Service— <i>Christmas Day</i>